

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

**Renew your OVH
membership now!**

February 2025

Next Monthly Meeting: Wednesday, February 19, 2025

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings to all,

A quick reminder: Because of the President's Day holiday, this month's meeting will be on WEDNESDAY, February 19th, which is NOT on Tuesday.

Congratulations to OVH Member Jeff / WB4TT, who leads in the January VHF contest. The January VHF contest was held January 18th to 20th. You can get more information in John Heartney's article later in this Newsletter.

When warmer and more seasonal weather returns, that would be a good time while we still have "see through trees" to get out there and check those antennas. Better now (and easier) than when the foliage returns. My own end fed antenna needed to be re-secured to a tree just a couple of weeks ago. A big tip of the hat to John / KG4NXT on that one.

It's once again time for Jeff / WB6UIE's semiannual club polos and name tags post. New members can get their club polo shirts and name tags, and you grizzled vets can replace your older, worn ones, if need be. For vendor contact information, please see our February 11th e blast on the OVH's email reflector, contact Jeff at WB6UIE@arrl.net or look at the related information later in this Newsletter.

Our monthly breakfast returns this Saturday, February 15th at 8:00 AM. Pioneered by Byron / AK4XR, we get together every Saturday before our regular monthly meetings at a table or two in the back of Yorkshire Restaurant for some good food and good conversation. Yorkshire Restaurant, 7537 Centreville Road, Manassas.

Our yearly OVH elections are returning. That's right, it's time once again to decide who is going to sit at the front table. We have a full slate on the ballot this year. Our entire



Cont'd on Page 3

Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 4293

Manassas, Virginia 20108-0728

OFFICERS

President:	Ken Brant	KN4DD	622-2638
Vice Pres:	Gil Thompson	KM4OZH	369-0431
Secretary:	John Heartney	KG4NXT	257-3566
Treasurer:	Jeff Porter	K9VEG	216-7734

DIRECTORS

Don (Butch) Blasdel	W4HJL	369-2877
Arthur Whittum	W1CRO	791-4330
Bob Zaepfel	K4HJF	282-2451
Theresa Heartney	KG4TVM	257-3566

WEEKLY FM REPEATER NET COORDINATOR

JOHN	KG4NXT	257-3566
Thurs - 8:00 PM Local Time		

TAILGATE (HAMFEST) 2024 - CHAIRMAN

Don	WA2SWX	597-3211
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FIELD DAY 2024 - CHAIRWOMAN

Cat	otohime.1978@gmail.com	KM4PBD	571-213-2179
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CLUB ROSTER / DATABASE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
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VE COORDINATOR

Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
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CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Open - volunteer needed!

ARES - EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Lane	KG4GIY	628-3868
See http://pwcares.org	email: kg4giy@arrl.net	

FINANCE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
Don	WA2SWX	597-3211

GENERATORS

Byron	AK4XR	222-2095
Al	KB4BHB	368-4794

WARRIOR BIKE RIDE - CHAIRMAN

Andy	andy@gamponia.com	KJ4MTP	785-4651
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WEB COMMITTEE — W4OVH.NET + Twitter & Facebook

Kevin	W4RKU	540-445-5183
John	KG4NXT	257-3566
Ken	KN4DD	622-2638

Web Committee "help request" email: webmaster@w4ovh.net

EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
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MANASSAS CHRISTMAS PARADE - OVH COORDINATOR

George	K4GVT	791-5956
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LEGAL

Bob	K4HJF	282-2451
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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Luther	WA3FMO	361-4885
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NEWSLETTER

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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CHRISTMAS / YEAR END PARTY - CHAIRPERSON

Theresa.	KG4TVM	257-3566
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PROGRAMS

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
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QUARTERMASTER

Open - volunteer needed!

THURSDAY NIGHT NET / REPEATER CONTROLLERS

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
Ken	KE2N	753-8587
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Al	KB4BHB	368-4794
James	KQ4CAX	628-5186
David	KG4GIY	361-3042
Cat	KM4PBD	571-213-2179

W4OVH — TRUSTEE

Gil	KM4OZH	369-0431
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W4PVA — TRUSTEE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
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SCHOLARSHIP 2022

Ken	KN4DD	622-2638
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SUNSHINE

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Ken	KE2N	753-8587
Andy	KJ4MTP	786-4651
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Bob	K4HJF	335-1939
David	KG4GIY	628-3868
Gil	KM4OZH	369-0431

HISTORIAN

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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All telephone numbers listed above are for Area Code 703 unless otherwise noted. This is the official monthly publication of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc., a §501(c)(3) organization, dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Amateur Radio. Copyright © 2024 by the Ole Virginia Hams which holds its regular monthly meetings at 7:30 p.m. every third Tuesday at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department Station, 7190 Yates Ford Road, Manassas, Virginia except during the COVID pandemic (in 2020-2021) during which the monthly meetings were held online. The Newsletter will have login details for monthly online meetings if applicable. Members, prospective members and other interested persons are invited to attend without obligation. Local information can also be obtained through the OVH's FM repeaters on 146.970-, 224.660-, 442.200+ and 443.500+ MHz. Up to date information about OVH activities and its meetings is also available during the OVH's nets on its FM Repeater each Thursday night at 8:00 p.m. or through the OVH's web site at <http://w4ovh.net>. Articles in this newsletter may be reprinted if credit is given to the OVH ARC and other source(s) noted. Proposed materials for publication, classified ads, notes about specific errors, complaints or the like are solicited. Forward such items to the Newsletter Editor: paul@w4zb.com. Approx. Circ.: 170. Last Rev: 20240714

Officer Cadre is running for re-election. Gil / KM4OZH, is on the ballot for Vice President; John / KG4NXT, Secretary and Jeff / K9VEG, Treasurer. I am asking for another year as OVH club President.

Please remember that your dues need to be paid in order to vote in the elections and our new annual amount is \$25.00 this year. Dues can be renewed online at W4OVH.NET or using the mail-in sheet, later in this Newsletter.

Important to Note again: our monthly meeting this month (February) will be on Wednesday, February 19th, otherwise at the regular time and place: W4OVH Monthly Meeting, 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM ET, Buckhall VFD Hall, 7190 Yates Ford Road, Manassas.. due to the Federal Holiday (President's Day) which created a conflict. This is a one off change in February The regular meeting in March will be on Tuesday, March 18th.

Gordon / NQ4K, is going to present the information about VAQP next month at the upcoming February meeting. VAQP, of course, is the 2025 Virginia QSO Party which will be held during the weekend of 15-16 March 2025.

Then we have Vienna Winterfest. The Vienna Wireless Society will present its 49th Winterfest on March 9th from 8 AM - 2 PM at the Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton Road, Vienna Virginia, 22181. More info at that at <https://viennawireless.net/wp/winterfest> A required disclaimer: Fairfax County Public Schools does not sponsor or endorse this event. Please note attendance requires following all FCPS policies and notices.

As spring approaches, our Community Services calendar is thin. I would like to fill it out.

If you have suggestions that we as a club can support, such as (but not limited to) triathlons, bike ride and/or foot races, please contact me or one of the other officers.

Also, a reminder to check in to the OVH's Thursday night VHF/UHF repeater net at 8 PM.

The details for that are on the OVH's web site: <https://w4ovh.net>

Questions, comments or war stories can be directed to my e-mail: KN4DD@arrl.net

73 Ken KN4DD

Sunshine Corner



Happy Birthday wishes to the following club members with February birthdays: Dick / WN7S, Harvey / WB6TTF, Jeff / WB6UIE, Art / W1CRO, Mike / KN4NDI, Tyssen / W8ZM, Scott / KN4ZMC and Gerald / KN4DWT.



Condolences to the family and friends of Mary Moon / KK4GOW who passed away last month. Mary was an active member for years always there to help at community events when the call when out looking for volunteers.

John / KG4NXT and I attended the Middle Peninsula Hamfest on February 1st. A

great group of friendly people ran the event. More info and pictures from that on the OVH web site and later in this Newsletter.

More local or nearby hamfests are upcoming shortly. First will be the Vienna WinterFest on March 9th, and then the FredFest in Frederick MD on March 22nd. We would like to have some items on our table to sell, so if you have anything, please reach out so we can coordinate with you.

Thanks to Gil KM4OZH for presenting the program at our January club meeting.



The first planning meeting for Field Day was held this month, Cat / KM4PBD is the chair. John / KG4NXT, Gil / KM4OZH, Ken / KN4DD and Theresa / KG4TVM each also attended the meeting along with Cat. It is not too late to help in the planning, just let Car know and watch for an announcement for the next meeting. CW and overnight operators are needed!



Please mark your calendar for Saturday, June 7, 2025 for the OVH Tailgate event! Volunteers are needed so please let us know how you can help.

Remember that the OVH Thursday night VHF/UHF FM net is at 8:00 pm each Thursday evening and is a great way to keep up with current events and hear what other active OVH members are up to with their radios! Details are on the W4OVH.NET web site.

Happy Valentine's Day to all!

Please send me your news, good, not so good and ham related info!

73 Theresa / KG4TVM kg4tvm@hotmail.com
Tel: 703-257-3566



Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting held on January 22, 2025:

OVH President Ken / KN4DD called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm on January 22, 2025 in the training room at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department Station. After the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and call signs.

Gil / KM4OZH gave the presentation about the coming OVH Meshtastic Node at Mt. Pone. He passed around the box ready to be mounted. Ken / KE2N brought additional hardware and explained the bandpass filter selection. The slides are on the OVH website under Presentations.

The minutes of the November 19, 2024 meeting were approved.

Jeff / K9VEG gave the treasurer's and it was approved.

Luther / WA3FMO gave the membership report. There was one vote-in and he was voted in: Wayne Lloyd, no call yet; and there was one read in: There was one read-in: Bettie St.Clair, no call yet.

ARES report: No report.

Repeater Report. Ken / KE2N advised that all repeaters are working. There is a problem with the 220 machine and it needs a software change at NOVEC. Ken will work on this and also to understand (and hopefully remedy) the random keying behavior of the 220 machine. One new member was approved for DStar.

Training Report: Mark / WA4KFZ advised that a VE session is scheduled but so far no one has contacted him about that.

Web Site Report. Ken / KN4DD advised attacks continue but the software defenses are holding. IP addresses indicate many of the attacks are from Russia, but IP addresses can be spoofed. Reasons for the attacks are unknown. Most appear to be by robots.

Tailgate Party Report. John KG4NXT advised he will chair it this year only. There was a January planning meeting. John and Theresa will go to Middle Peninsula hamfest on February 1st.

Field Day – Butch / W4HJL has reserved the Nokesville pavilion but the permit stated dawn to dusk. John will call Jane E. to try to avoid the Ranger Hawkins problem that we had last year. Chair Cat has called a planning meeting for February 5th and it is listed on the club web site.

Sunshine Report. Theresa . KG4TVM gave this, birthdays were mentioned. Both Kens have a birthday this month. She asked for consignments for the OVH table at the Middle Peninsula hamfest. She also mentioned Winter Field day and that Vienna would have winter field day in a CERT tent.

Gene / N4HFW won the 50/50 raffle and donated his winnings to the club.

Old Business: None. New Business: None. The meeting was then adjourned.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

Sunday, March 9, 2025. Vienna, Virginia (at Oakton High School). by Vienna Wireless. This hamfest has been very popular locally for many, many years, and is attended by many OVH members. OVH will have a table there. Details at <https://viennawireless.net/wp/winterfest>

Saturday, March 22, 2025. FredFest tailgate/hamfest in nearby Frederick, Maryland sponsored by the Frederick ARC. OVH will have a table. Details at <https://frederickarc.org/fredfest-2025/>

Friday - Sunday, May 16 - 18, 2025. Dayton Hamvention, Ohio. See hamvention.org for more info. This is one of the biggest Hamfest events worldwide and should be visited at least once!

Saturday, June 7, 2025 - 7:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The OVH's 2025 Tailgate Party in Manassas. See flyer later in this Newsletter, also info at. <https://w4ovh.net/welcome-to-manassas-hamfest>
This is a major annual event for the OVH.

OVH EVENTS

The OVH's regular meeting in February 2025 will be on the third Wednesday evening, rather than the usual third Tuesday evenings, at 7:30 pm at the usual location, the Buckhall VFD Hall, 7190 Yates Ford Road, Manassas.

HAM RADIO OPERATING / CONTEST EVENTS

Saturday - Sunday, March 15 - 16, 2025. The Virginia QSO Party sponsored by the Sterling ARC. Very popular with OVH members who participate individually and on behalf of the OVH. A speaker from Sterling ARC will be at the OVH February meeting
Details at https://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party/2025_VQP/2025_VQP_Main.html

Also, see, <https://www.arrl.org/contests> for more information and details about many other contests on the ARRL maintained Contest web page, A more comprehensive, up-to-date, and long range planning contesting calendar with links to the rules for the various events is maintained at <https://contestcalendar.com> by WA7BNM. Another very good web site for info is NG3K.com. If you have the radio contesting bug or just want to find out how much is going on - a lot -, these are very good places to look!

PUBLIC EVENTS / PUBLIC SERVICE / ARES EVENTS

Check the online Calendar on the OVH's web site at W4OVH.NET for information about upcoming OVH related events. Also, check the online Calendar maintained by David / KG4GIY at <http://pwcares.org> for the latest PWC ARES updates. Complete direct contact information for David / KG4GIY also appears on page 2 of this Newsletter.

OVH Club Polo Shirts - Ordering Information

If you would like to personalize your polo with name and callsign, you can have it embroidered locally by Sloper's Stich House:

10560 Associates Court
Manassas, Virginia 20109

<https://stitchhouse.com/>

I suggest printing out the photo below to show correct placement and font. The thread color is Madeira 1171.



Two lines to be added.

73,

Jeff
WB6UIE

WB6UIE (at) arrl dot net

Club Polos and Nametags

Jeff Fuller
WB6UIE

Welcome aboard to all our new OVH members.

With a number of club activities approaching, this would be a good time to order club nametags and polos if you don't already have them.



You can order your nametag directly from:

<https://www.thesignman.com/clubs/ovhcart.html>

I have a number of polos in stock. If you'd like to purchase one, email me with your size and I will bring it to the next club meeting.

Available sizes

Men's and Women's: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL, 5XL

Prices

Size	Price
S-XL	\$26.00
2XL	\$28.00
3XL	\$30.00
4XL	\$32.00
5XL	\$34.00

(Polos are 100% cotton, so you may want to order a size larger.)

Success by Jeff / WB4TT in the January 2025 VHF Contest

The January 2025 VHF contest was held January 18th to 20th. There was severe weather that weekend. Gil / KM4OZH who normally competes in the Rover class, stayed off the roads. His neighbor and OVH member, Jeff / WB4TT, operated FM mode only, single operator from his residence. As of the January 30, 2025, log submission date Jeff came in first in the single operator, FM only class. About 280 points ahead of the next highest score in that class, so we expect Jeff will remain at the top when the scores are audited. Congrats to Jeff!

Additionally, Jeff and Gil recently added another tower (to the right) which can be tilted down using torque from an electric drill. (John/KG4NXT)



Report on the Middle Peninsula Hamfest

On February 1, 2025, Theresa / KG4TVM and John / KG4NXT went to the Middle Peninsula Hamfest in Gloucester, Virginia. We had a table (to the right) and our primary purpose was to distribute OVH Flyers for the upcoming OVH tailgate event on June 7, 2025. Ron / K3FR also attended. We also asked for consignments to make the table more interesting. Ron / K3FR provided us with a chrome Bencher key and a Brother inkjet printer. We were able to sell the Bencher key. The printer is still for sale at \$25. Ken / KE2N provided us with an Elecraft KX3 which generated a lot of interest but did not sell at \$1,600.00. We will be taking the printer and KX3 to Vienna Winterfest unless we are able to sell them first. John found some nice coax deals at the hamfest including a 50 foot roll of RG213 that was still in the plastic. John also won a rechargeable LED flashlight; as a door prize - which did not impress him very much - until he learned that that item sells for \$40 at Harbor Freight! (John/KG4NXT)



REMINDER



Yes, it is that time of year again!!!! Below is the 2025 Renewal Application.

Please fill out the form below (for database), attach your check and mail to the address below or drop off at a meeting. Be sure to update all information, including your e-mail address, telephone number(s) and nine digit ZIP. Note: please check online at <https://w4ovh.net> for ways to do this renewal online.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPLICATION "OLE VIRGINIA HAMS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB" for 2025

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CALL SIGN: _____

Home Tel: _____

Cell Tel: _____

Work Tel: _____

EMAIL: _____

BIRTHDAY: _____

ARE YOU PRESENTLY AN ARRL MEMBER? (YES/NO)

ARE YOU A VOLUNTEER EXAMINER: (YES/NO)

MAY YOUR TELEPHONE NOS. BE LISTED IN THE "Members Only" OVH ROSTER? (YES/NO)

WHAT IS YOUR PRESENT LICENSE CLASS? _____

Dues are **\$25.00** per year and payable on January 1, 2025. Dues for each additional family member living at the same mailing address are \$12.50. Dues for a full time student at the college undergraduate or at lower level [list school attended and grade or level: _____] are only \$12.50. Dues must be current to be eligible to vote in the February 2025 election of officers for 2025.

AMOUNT ENCLOSING: _____

NAME AND CALL OF FAMILY MEMBERS:

Name: _____

Name: _____

Call: _____

Call: _____

Return to: **Treasurer, OVH**
P.O. Box 4293
Manassas, VA 20108-0728

The Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club

Is hosting a

HAM RADIO TAIL GATE PARTY

Saturday, June 7th, 2025

7 am to 1 pm

Across from Signal Hill Park in Manassas Park

General Admission \$8 per person over 14

\$20 per vehicle to set up (includes one admission ticket)

All attendees will park in the field

38° 45.2710'N, 77° 26.2800'W

Signal Hill Park address is 9300 Signal View Dr. Manassas Park, VA – the field is located on Signal View Drive across the street from the park entrance

The field is on the east side of Signal View Drive just past the National Monument for the First Battle of Manassas



More information www.w4ovh.net